

Saturday 4 October 2008

The October meeting began with an unexpected change of venue. We couldn't get into Bluecoat School, but thanks to the hospitality of Queensberry Street and the willingness of the people who stood outside Bluecoat redirecting everyone, we eventually got going.

Several people felt God was at work in the change, and Ruth reminded us that when the cloud moved off, Moses and the people moved off with it. By the end of the meeting we could see that God had indeed moved us to Queensberry Street because we needed to be in a safe place for the task ahead of us.

The trumpets welcomed the Lord, and we joined together in worship. Then we felt led to pray over those involved in education or children's work. There was a 'birthing' time with the cry, "Give us our children back." There was a prophetic song, "Arise O God, scatter your enemies, to the sound of the drum, to the sound of the beating drum. Let God arise! Arise O God, let your enemies be scattered!" The young people led us in worship to the sound of the drum.

A word was shared from Isaiah 44:1-5. "... I will pour my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring ..." The sword was raised over the children of the city, and we declared an end to their captivity, saying, "We release you this morning, Father, to deal with strongholds in the nation. We declare an end to captivity over education. That which is hidden in dark places will be revealed. That which has resisted will loose its hold!"

Rob Southey, a Christian headteacher, shared his heart. He said that in the 1950s the Humanists decided to change the nation by getting the children first, then within a generation the whole of society would change. They wrote a manifesto to take God out of the classroom. Over 50 years they've done the job. Now children are without hope and without a future. Jesus rebuked the disciples for sending the children away, and said, "Let the children come to me." We are proclaiming that it's time to turn this around. The National Curriculum is Godless. It's time for a victory shout, to turn it around.

We then spoke the word of God into the following areas affecting young people:

- *Against the National Curriculum:*
"He is the image of the invisible God ..." Colossians 1:15-18
- *Against children's worth being based on performance:*
"I am fearfully and wonderfully made ..." Psalm 139

We reminded ourselves of God's command to parents:

"Hear O Israel ... impress my laws on your children (like a stamp on wax) ... write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6. We were led in a prayer of repentance on behalf of parents, and finished by declaring in song, "Hallelujah, our God reigns!"

That was the end of the meeting, but not the end of praying for the children of our city. Watch this space!